

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 00316 201109Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 CA-01 PA-02
PRS-01 USIA-15 INR-07 DODE-00 /062 W
-----078151 201117Z/11

P 200940Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9446
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
CINCPAC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0316

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (BRILLIG)
SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY AMERICAN YACHT BRILLIG CREW

REF: SINGAPORE 0278

1. DELLENBAUGH, AFFEL, AND DICKERMAN OF YACHT BRILLIG MET PRESS AFTERNOON JANUARY 20 IN YARD OF OLD ARMENIAN CHURCH ADJOINING U.S. EMBASSY IN DOWNTOWN SINGAPORE. THEY READ FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO PRESS, WHICH INCLUDED CBS-TV.

2. QUOTE. WE ARE VERY GLAD TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM VIETNAM AND TO HAVE ARRIVED SAFELY IN SINGAPORE. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR NEGOTIATING OUR RELEASE AND TO ALL OF OUR FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, WHO WORKED AND PRAYED FOR OUR RELEASE.

WE, CORNELIA DELLENBAUGH, CHARLES AFFEL, AND LELAND DICKERMAN HAVE BEEN SAILING TOGETHER AS CREW
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PAGE 02 SINGAP 00316 201109Z

OF THE YACHT BRILLIG SINCE FEBRUARY 1975 WHEN WE LEFT BANGKOK WHERE THE YACHT HAD JUST BEEN COMPLETED. AFTER CRUISING THROUGHOUT MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, AND AUSTRALIA FOR TWO YEARS, WE LEFT BANGKOK FOR THE SECOND TIME ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1977 BOUND FOR A LEISURELY CRUISE OF ISLANDS IN THE GULF OF SIAM AND OF BORNEO (SABAH, BRUNEI, SARAWAK) BEFORE REPROVISIONING IN

SINGAPORE FOR THE LONG TRIP HOME TO THE U.S.A.
ON OCTOBER 12, 1977 AT 1300 HOURS, IN THE SOUTH
CHINA SEA OFF THE SOUTHERN TIP OF VIETNAM, THREE
VIETNAMESE FISHING BOATS CAME FROM THE NORTH AND FIRING
GUNS, BOARDED AND CAPTURED US. WE WERE TAKEN TO HO CHI MINH
CITY WHERE WE WERE DETAINED IN CUSTODY OF THE SECURITY OFFICE
WHILE OUR CASE WAS UNDER INVESTIGATION. BECAUSE THE UNITED
STATES WAS NEVER FORMALLY INFORMED OF ANY CHARGES AGAINST US
AND WE WERE FORCED TO PROCEED WITHOUT BENEFIT OF COUNSEL,
WE CAN MAKE NO COMMENTS ON THE CHARGES OR TERMS OF SETTLEMENT
OF THE CASE. WE WERE TREATED VERY WELL THE WHOLE TIME
WE WERE IN VIETNAM, GIVEN MEDICAL CARE, AND WELL-FED. THE
INVESTIGATION OF OUR CASE WAS COMPLETED ON DECEMBER 22, 1977
AND WE WERE FORMALLY RELEASED ON JANUARY 2, 1978. OUR FINAL
DEPARTURE WAS DELAYED UNTIL JANUARY 12 DUE TO STRONG WINDS
AND HIGH SEAS; JANUARY 13 FOUND US FREE AT LAST AND
SAILING TOWARDS SINGAPORE IN FINE WEATHER. CHARLIE,
LELAND AND I APPRECIATE THE ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S.
NAVY SHIP WHICH WE MET ON JANUARY 14 AND ALL THE
CONCERN FOR OUR SAFETY. WE ARRIVED IN SINGAPORE AT
03:30 ON JANUARY 19, 1978 AND HOPE TO STAY HERE THREE
OR FOUR WEEKS FOR REPAIRS OF WIDESPREAD SUPERFICIAL
DAMAGE OT THE YACHT, A HAUL-OUT, AND TO REPLACE THE
RUDDER. WE HOPE TO LEAVE IN TIME TO SAIL THROUGH THE
RED SEA BEFORE CONDITIONS BECOME UNFAVORABLE.
WE ARE ALL TIRED AND PLAN ON MAKING NO FURTHER
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PAGE 03 SINGAP 00316 201109Z

STATEMENTS. THANK YOU. UNQUOTE.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

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